

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237421

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINR, AU

SUBJECT: NEW IRISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

REF: VIENNA 9940

1. THE CURRENT IRISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, WILLIAM WARNOCK, 61, WAS IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. FROM MARCH 1970 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1973. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED SINCE 1967 AS AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, WHERE HE MAINTAINED GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS AND SEEMED WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.

2. AN ABLE, WELL-INFORMED AND ENERGETIC MAN OF IMPRESSIVE INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY, WARNOCK IS OPEN, APPROACHABLE, AND FRIENDLY. HE HANDLES SENSITIVE IRISH POLITICAL ISSUES WITH SKILL, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER BEEN ACTIVE IN NATIONAL POLITICS. HE IS CONSIDERED A MODERATE ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OF PARTITION AND THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND, WARNOCK IS PROBABLY THE ONLY NON-CATHOLIC AMONG THE CHIEFS OF IRISH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. HE IS A NON-STOP TALKER.

3. WARNOCK ENTERED THE IRISH FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1935 AND
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HAS HAD ASSIGNMENTS IN GERMANY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND,

AUSTRIA, AND INDIA. HE HAS ALWAYS TRAVELLED WIDELY IN HIS
HOST COUNTRIES.

4. WARNOCK MARRIED DOROTHY MURRAY IN 1946 AND HAS FOUR
CHILDREN. ONE SON WAS AT ONE TIME A MEMBER OF THE U.S
MARINE CORPS. A SPORTS ENTHUSIAST, WARNOCK ENJOYS TAKING
LONG WALKS. HE IS AN AUTHORITY ON IRISH HISTORY AND
LITERATURE AND SPEAKS GAELIC, FRENCH, GERMAN, AND
SWEDISH. KISSINGER

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